

ART PROGRAM GRADE 3/4 -TERM3-2011



DRAGONS

- *Students will discover the world of the Chinese dragon by creating their own festive dragon.*
- *Students will use texture, line, shape, pattern and colour when creating their dragons.*

What You Need:

- *white drawing paper 12x18*
- *black permanent marker*
- *pencils*
- *watercolors*
- *books containing dragons*

What You Do:

1. *Briefly discuss the characteristics of a dragon.*
2. *Then have students look through books containing pictures of dragons and ask them to find as many characteristics as listed on the board.*
3. *Next give the students a piece of white drawing paper and pencil and have them create an original dragon. (this may be difficult for some so i suggest they try to copy a dragon they like best in the book, this will spark imagination then the idea takes off into a dragon of their own)*
4. *When their dragon is complete they trace over the lines with a black permanent marker. Students use water colour to paint their dragons being careful not to use too much paint as it will flow into unwanted areas. Paint entire paper and lay to dry.*
5. *Mount on black paper and display.*

Lanterns for Harvest Festival

Chinese Lanterns-Moon Festival-

To fit in with our work about space, you might investigate how the moon and stars are represented in literature. Etseko is using the Japanese story of the Rabbit and the Moon in her program, but there are many others.

The **Mid-Autumn Festival**, also known as the **Moon Festival** or **Zhongqiu Festival** is a popular harvest festival celebrated by **Chinese**, Korean, and **Vietnamese people**, dating back over 3,000 years to **moon worship** in **China's Shang Dynasty**. It was first called *Zhongqiu Jie* (literally "Mid-Autumn Festival") in the **Zhou Dynasty**.^[1] In **Malaysia, Singapore**, and **the Philippines**, it is also sometimes referred to as the **Lantern Festival** or **Mooncake Festival**.

The Mid-Autumn Festival is held on the 15th day of the eighth month in the **Chinese calendar**, which is in September or early October in the **Gregorian calendar**. It is a date that parallels the **autumnal equinox** of the **solar calendar**, when the moon is at its fullest and roundest. The traditional food of this festival is the **mooncake**, of which there are many different varieties

The Mid-Autumn Festival is one of the few most important holidays in the Chinese calendar, the others being **Chinese New Year** and **Winter Solstice**, and is a legal holiday in several countries. Farmers celebrate the end of the fall harvesting season on this date. Traditionally on this day, Chinese family members and friends will gather to admire the bright mid-autumn **harvest moon**, and eat moon cakes and **pomelos** under the moon together. Accompanying the celebration, there are additional cultural or regional customs, such as:

- Carrying brightly lit **lanterns**, lighting lanterns on towers, floating **sky lanterns**
- Burning **incense** in reverence to deities including [Chang'e](#)
- Erect the Mid-Autumn Festival.(树中秋，竖中秋，in China,树 and 竖 are homophones) It is not about planting trees but hanging lanterns on the bamboo pole and putting them on a high point, such as roofs, trees, terraces, etc. It is a custom in Guangzhou, Hong Kong, etc.
- Collecting [dandelion](#) leaves and distributing them evenly among family members
- Fire [Dragon Dances](#)

Here are some stories about the moon taken from the Net

The Stories of the Chinese Mid Autumn Festival

The Lady in the Moon

The Moon festival (also called the Mooncake or Mid-Autumn festival) falls on September 22nd in the year 2010. What is the Moon festival? Every year on the fifteenth day of the eighth month of the lunar calendar, when the moon is at its maximum brightness for the entire year, the Chinese celebrate "zhong qiu jie." Children are told the story of the moon fairy living in a crystal palace, who comes out to dance on the moon's shadowed surface. The legend surrounding the "lady living in the moon" dates back to ancient times, to a day when ten suns appeared at once in the sky. The Emperor ordered a famous archer to shoot down the nine extra suns. Once the task was accomplished, Goddess of Western Heaven rewarded the archer with a pill that would make him immortal. However, his wife found the pill, took it, and was banished to the moon as a result. Legend says that her beauty is greatest on the day of the Moon festival.

III. The Hare - Jade Rabbit



In this legend, three fairy sages transformed themselves into pitiful old men and begged for something to eat from a fox, a monkey and a rabbit. The fox and the monkey both had food to give to the old men, but the rabbit, empty-handed, offered his own flesh instead, jumping into a blazing fire to cook himself. The sages were so touched by the rabbit's sacrifice that they let him live in the Moon Palace where he became the "Jade Rabbit."

Other Moon Festival Legends

According to another legend, on this day the "Man in the Moon" was spotted at an inn, carrying a writing tablet. When questioned, he said he was recording the names of all the happy couples who were fated to marry and live happily forever after. Accordingly, just as June is the traditional month for exchanging nuptials in the west, many Chinese weddings are held during the eighth lunar month, with the fifteenth day being the most popular.

Of course, the most famous legend surrounding the Moon festival concerns its possible role in Chinese history. Overrun by the Mongols in the thirteenth century, the Chinese threw off their oppressors in 1368 AD. It is said that mooncakes - which the Mongols did not eat - were the perfect vehicle for hiding and passing along plans for the rebellion. Families were instructed not to eat the mooncakes until the day of the moon festival, which is when the rebellion took place. (In another version plans were passed along in mooncakes over several years of Mid-Autumn festivals, but the basic idea is the same).

Bamboo and Tissue paper Lanterns

Here is what to do

Materials:

3x 1 metres cane

MaskingTape

Tissue paper

PVA glue slightly watered down

1 tea candle

Method;

Making the Frame

Overlap the three pieces of cane in the centre, making triangular holder at the bottom to hold the tea light.

Tape into place.

Bend and join end pieces to form a triangle at the top of the lantern.

Tape into place. Make sure that all shape ends have been covered over with tape as they might pierce the tissue later.

Cut tissue to size and glue into place using PVA, wrap tissue around cane where possible or overlap.

I think it will be a good idea to paint over all the tissue with a PVA slurry, just to strengthen the tissue. When you are doing this, tissue paper cut outs can be added for decoration. Again use plenty of PVA to glue the pattern down, but be careful not to tear the paper.

Use wire to make a handle and keep candle in place by using some masking tape.

We might try and have a lantern procession on the night of the planetarium.